

Message Text

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47

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01

USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 PM-04 NSC-05 SS-15 IO-10 EUR-12

/074 W

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R 192324Z DEC 75

FM AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2344

INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

AMEMBASSY PANAMA

AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

AMCONSUL BELIZE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, GT, BZ, CS

SUBJECT: GUATEMALA DECORATES ODUBER AND FACIO

1. IN SAN JOSE ON DECEMBER 17 AND 18 RESPECTIVELY
GUATEMALAN FOREIGN MINISTER MOLINA AWARDED HIGH HONORS
TO PRESIDENT ODUBER AND FOREIGN MINISTER FACIO.

2. PRESIDENT ODUBER WAS AWARDED THE GOLD COLLAR OF
THE ORDER OF QUETZAL, REPORTEDLY THE HIGHEST HONOR
GIVEN BY THE GOG. ACCORDING TO MOLINA, THE HONOR WAS
GIVEN TO ODUBER FOR STATESMANSHIP IN CENTRAL AMERICAN
AFFAIRS AND FOR HIS SUPPORT OF GUATEMALA'S CLAIMS TO
BELIZE.

3. THE FOLLOWING DAY, FOREIGN MINISTER FACIONLAS
DECORATED WITH THE GREAT CROSS OF THE ORDER OF QUETZAL
(ACCORDING TO THE PRESS, FACIO'S 78TH AWARD DURING
HIS DIPLOMATIC CAREER). IN GIVING THE AWARD, MOLINA
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CITED FACIO'S EXCELLENCE AS FOREIGN MINISTER, PARTICULARLY

IN THE UN AND PARTICULARLY ON THE BELIZE ISSUE.

4. COMMENT: THIS MOVE BY THE GOG IS AN OBVIOUS ATTEMPT TO CEMENT COSTA RICA'S CAUTIOUSLY GIVEN SUPPORT TO GUATEMALA ON THE BELIZE ISSUE, AND PERHAPS TO GAIN SOME FRESH PUBLICITY. HOWEVER, IN ACCEPTING HIS AWARD, FACIO REITERATED, IN A WELL-PLANNED SPEECH, THE GOCR'S POSITION CALLING FOR A NEGOTIATED, PEACEFUL SOLUTION WHICH WOULD TAKE INTO FULL ACCOUNT THE WISHES OF THE PEOPLE OF BELIZE. IN THE SPEECH, FACIO ALSO CRITICIZED THE "AUTOMATIC MAJORITY" OF THE NON-ALIGNED COUNTRIES OF THE UN WHICH DEFEATED COSTA RICAN-SUPPORTED MOTION ON THE BELIZE ISSUE AND INSTEAD VOTED IN FAVOR OF COMPLETE INDEPENDENCE, THEREBY IGNORING ANY GUATEMALAN CLAIM. FACIO POINTED OUT THAT COSTA RICAN-SUPPORTED PROPOSAL IS REFLECTED IN REALITY TODAY (I.E. NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN UK AND GOG) WHILE THE APPROVED MOTION IS MERELY A "PAPER VOTE, TOTALLY INOPERATIVE." FACIO ALSO REFERRED TO UK IN POSITIVE TERMS, REFERRING TO THE UK'S "PROVERBIAL PRAGMATISM."

TODMAN

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Message Attributes

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